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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02
/050 W
----------030531Z 101215 /12
R 030032Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1885
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA BY POUCH

UNCLAS MEXICO 06563

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, MX
SUBJECT: COST OF LIVING THEME OF LABOR DAY PROTEST

1. MORE THAN ONE MILLION OF MEXICO CITY'S ORGANIZED WORKERS CELEBRATED THEIR INTERNATIONAL MAY 1 LABOR DAY IN AN IMPRESSIVE ORDERLY PARADE PAST PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND HIS CABINET. WHILE THERE WERE SCATTERED BANNERS OR PLACARDS CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF UNPOPULAR MANAGERS OR URGING SETTLEMENT OF LOCAL GRIEVANCES, THE PREDOMINANT THEME WAS A STRONG PETITION FOR MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT ACTION TOWARD CURBING RISING PRICES. MOST WERE RESPECTFUL VARIATIONS OF THE CTM MESSAGE THAT LABOR HAD HONORED ITS PROMISE TO THE ADMINISTRATION IN HOLDING WAGE INCREASES WITHIN THE 10-PERCENT LEVEL BUT THAT THE NATION'S MERCHANTS HAD FAILED TO REIN IN PRICES. MOST MESSAGES URGED GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF PRICES--MANY "PUNISHMENT" FOR THOSE MERCHANTS WHO FAILED TO HOLD THE PRICE LINE.

2. CONGRESS OF LABOR PRESIDENT NAPOLEON GOMEZ SADA FORCEFULLY EMPHASIZED TO THE PRESIDENT LABOR'S CONCERN OVER THEIR RECENT LOSS IN REAL WAGES IN A PRIVATE GATHERING OF
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THE GOM HIERARCHY, TOP LABOR LEADERS AND A FEW FOREIGN GUESTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PARADE. GOMEZ WARNED THAT IF THE PRESIDENT COULD NOT FIND THE MEANS TO CONTROL THE RATE OF INFLATION, LABOR WOULD BE FORCED TO SEEK CORRESPONDINGLY HIGHER WAGES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. LOPEZ PORTILLO ACKNOWLEDGED LABOR'S WAGE RESTRAINT AS A PATRIOTIC CONTRIBUTION DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES AND URGED

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THEIR CONTINUED COOPERATION.
3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE GROUP OF DISSIDENT LEFTIST SUTERM ELECTRICAL WORKERS WHO PLEDGED THEY WOULD RETURN TO CONTROL OF THEIR UNION, THE DEMONSTRATION WAS PRO-PRI AND LOPEZ PORTILLO. SEVERAL TOP LEADERS WHO ATTENDED THE SHORT CEREMONY IN THE GOVERNMENT PALACE AFTER THE PARADE TOLD THE LABATT THAT THIS GROUP WAS ALLOWED TO JOIN THE PARADE BUT THAT THE GOM HAD ON THE PREVIOUS DAY REFUSED SIMILAR PERMISSION TO A NEWLY FORMED UNION OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY-UNAM WORKERS AND PROFESSORS. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, MAY DAY, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, LABOR OBJECTIVES, COST OF LIVING WAGE ADJUSTMENT
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2318288
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COST OF LIVING THEME OF LABOR DAY PROTEST
TAGS: ELAB, MX
To: STATE GUADALAJARA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0fbf5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009